paragraph bridging pages 1-2, replace with the following paragraph:

--According to the invention, this object is achieved by means of a method, a line terminator and a network terminator [according to claim 1, 2 and 3 respectively] as described hereunder. In accordance with the inventive method, the line terminator includes at predefined place in a downstream data packet a grant associated with one of the plurality of network terminators and distributes the downstream packet, each one of the network terminators transmits an upstream data packet in a predefined upstream timeslot in response to reception and recognition of its own grant, and the transmitting step includes the steps of: transmitting said upstream data packet in a lower order timeslot in the event the one of the network terminators is a lower order network terminator and the predefined place is a predefined first place; transmitting the upstream data packet in one of a plurality of higher order timeslots in the event the one of the network terminators is a higher order network terminator and the predefined place is a predefined first place, with the higher order timeslots being subslots of a predefined number of higher order subslots included in the predefined upstream timeslot; and transmitting the upstream data packet in the higher order timeslot in the event the one of the network terminators is a higher order network terminator and the redefined place is a predefined second place.

The inventive line terminator distributes downstream data packets to a plurality of network terminators and comprises an insertion device for including in a downstream data packet at a predefined first place a grant associated with one of the plurality of network terminators, the insertion device, in the event that one of the plurality of network terminators is a higher order network terminator, including at a predefined second place of the downstream data packet a grant which is associated with the one of the plurality of network terminators.

The inventive network terminator comprises a detector recognzing the network terminator's own grant in a downstream packet sent from a line terminator to the network terminator, and a transmitter for transmitting a data packet in a predefined upstream timeslot upon recognition of its grant, wherein the network terminator is adapted to transmit upstream data packets at a higher order data packet rate, the detector

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is further adapted to recognize its own grant at a predefined first place and the transmitter is adapted, upon recognition by the deteector of the grant at the predefined first place, to transmit a data packet in one of a plurality of higher order timeslots, the higher order timeslots being a subslot of a predefined number of higher order subslots included in the predefined upstream timeslot, and the detector being further adapted to recognize its own grant at a predefined second place and the transmitter is further adapted, upon recognition of the grant by the detector at the predefined second place, to transmit the data packet in a the higher order timeslot.

In the above description, network terminators transmitting at higher speed, e.g., 622 Mbit/sec., are called higher order network terminators and network terminators sending at lower upstream speed, e.g., 155 Mbit/sec, are called lower order network terminators.--

Page 2, after line 26, insert the heading --**Brief Description of the Drawings**--.

Page 3, after line 2, insert the heading --**Detailed Description of the Invention**--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Amended) [Method to divide] A method for dividing upstream timeslots in a multiple access system that couples a line terminator [(LT)] via a tree-like network to a plurality of network terminators [(NT1, NT2, ..., NT16)] and that distributes downstream data packets by said line terminator [(LT)] to said plurality of network terminators [(NT1, NT2, ..., NT16)], said method including the steps of :

[inclusion by] said line terminator (LT) including at predefined place in a downstream data packet [at a predefined place of] a grant [(TEA1, TEA2, ..., TEA16) being] associated [to] with one of said plurality of network terminators [(NT1, NT2, ..., NT16)] and distributing said downstream packet, and

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